coordinated a campaign in the Pune city against the spread of AIDS;

(b) whether Government propose to launch similar campaigns in other big cities in coordination with the National Institute of Virology; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Institute of Virology jointly with the Pune Municipal Corporation had collected blood samples from prostitutes to conduct tests for HIV infection. The results of the tests were communicated to the Pune Municipal Corporation, who will issue health cards which will enable the prostitutes to obtain medicare and counselling facilities periodically. The National Institute of Virology is also screening other high risk groups such as blood donors and patients suffering from sexually transmitted diseases by obtaining blood samples from hospitals managed by Government and the Corporation.

(b) and (c) Indian Council of Medical Research in collaboration with the State Governments has established 40 surveillance centres in 30 cities. These surveillance centres are also screening prsons belonging to high risk groups for detecting HIV infection.

Survey of Indian Ocean for Medicinal Plants

755. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any Survey of Indian Ocean for availability of medicinal plants and weeds;

(b) if so, what are the details of such survey and the outcome thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, in what manner Government propose to tap the available rare medicinal resources of Indian Ocean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Around 450 marine organisms (plants and animals) have been collected, identified and screened for biological activity. Out of these, 1-54 have found to be biologically active. Detailed chemical evaluation of twenty-five samples for development of new drugs from marine organisms is in progress.

Surveys in the coastal zones of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Lakshadweep Islands have indicated availability of sea weeds (harvestable). Dominant species identified are Sargassum, Gracilaria, Hypnea, Acanthophora, Ulva Enteromorpha etc. An anti-viral agent from a sea weed has been identified and isolated.

(c) Does not arise.

Transplantation of human organs

756. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been encouraging transplantation of human organs to save the life of patients;

(b) if so, what are the details of legal or statutory provisions made by Government to regulate transplantation of human organs;

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what is the legal status of present-day human organ transplantations in India; and

(d) what is the manner in which Government propose to check the exploitation of human organ donors by rich people and clandestine businessmen doing business in human organs?